(c) The Government have been maintaining a close and continuous watch on the industrial relations situation in the country. The Industrial Relations Machinery both at the Centre and in the States are taking steps to resolve disputes and reduce work stoppages through preventive mediation, conciliation and arbitration.

(d) The Central Board for Workers' Education conducts various programmes on workers' education at the National, Regional and Units levels for workers in the organised, the unorganised and the rural sector. The subject of loss of mandays is covered by the Board in its programmes at different levels. Besides, need based Seminars on productivity, joint educational programmes for representatives of workers and management, members of joint councils and bipartite committees also lay considerable stress on this subject.

Statement

Mandays lost in the country due to strikes and lockouts during 1987-90 (in millions)

Mandays lost due to Industrial Dispute Reasons

Year	Strikes	Lockout	Total
1987	14.83	21.33	35.36
1988	12.53	21.42	33.95
1989 (P)	10.70	21.99	32.68
1990 (P)	10.22	13.40	23.62

(P) - Provisional

(N.B.)—Total may not necessarily tally due to rounding off of figures.

Support price for paddy

436. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the support price for paddy announced by Government during the last season;

(b) whether the support price is higher than the prevailing open market price of paddy; and

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that the support price, instead of supporting the farmers is doing harm to them, as the procuring authorities are compelling the farmers, to sell their produce at a lower rate than the prevailing market rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The procurement prices announced by the Government for paddy of fair average quality (FAQ) for the 1990-91 season are Rs. 205, Rs. 215 and Rs. 225 per quintal for common, Fine and Superfine varieties respectively.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Government agencies procure paddy of FAQ at the procurement prices fixed by the Government. In respect of rice procured from the millers by way of levy, the farmers get the remunerative procurement prices fixed by the Government for paddy though in respect of non-levy part, they obtain higher prevailing market prices. As levy is imposed to maintain the public Distribution System, which serves larger public interest including that of vulnerable sections of the population and as the support prices fixed by the Government are remunerative, it may not be proper to say that the procuring authorities are doing more harm than good to the farmers. It has to be appreciated that procurement prevents exploitation of farmers by trade, especially in the immediate post-harvest period as in the absence of procurement, prices would crash to the detriment of farmers.

Review of Narmada Project

437. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the Narmada Project afresh; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

Inter-State Water disputes

438. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Inter-State Water disputes are pending at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to resolve these disputes?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c) Under the provisions of the Inter State Water Disputes Act, 1956, two disputes, namely sharing of surplus Ravi and Beas waters and sharing of Cauvery waters have been referred to the Tribunals in April, 1986 and June, 1990 respectively. While the Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal has given its Report in January, 1987, the Government of India and party States have made further reference as envisaged under the Act to seek explanation/guidance of the Tribunal on its report, the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has passed a Order on 25-6-1991 granting interim relief to Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. As regards the proposal from Madhya Pradesh for consideration of the questions associated with Mahi-Bajajsagar under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, a preliminary inter-State meeting was held on February 6, 1991. In addition, there are some inter-State issues pertaining to matters such as interpretation of earlier agreements and sharing of surplus waters viz. sharing of Yamuna water (upto Okhla), interpretation of Bansagar Agreement on Sone waters, interpretation of Mahi waters Agreement between Rajasthan and Gujarat. For amicable settlement of inter-State issues in water resources between the States, a Standing Committee of the National Water Resources Council has been constituted in April, 1990. The Standing Committee held one meeting in September, 1990 to resolve issues connected with sharing of Yamuna waters (upto Okhla).

Subsidies on foodgrains

439. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure being incurred at present on the subsidies on foodgrains;

(b) whether Government propose to reduce or abolish these subsidies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) The subsidy given on foodgrains to the Food Corporation of India during the last two years and proposed for the current year is as under:—

Year	(Rs. in crores)	
1989-90	2476 (including Sugar)	
1990-91	2450	-Do.-
1991-92 (B.E.) (Vote-on-Account)	1800	

(b) and (c) The entire question of subsidy is under the active consideration of the Government.

Modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant

440. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to a news report which appeared in the Business Standard of June 27 titled 'poll-eve RSP bonanza for Bihar firm' wherein it has been stated that a job